

## REMARKS

Claims 6-7 and 14-20 stand rejected.

This response cancels claims 7, 14, and 16 (and 8-13, previously noted as withdrawn).

This response also amends claims 6, 15, 17, 19, and 20.

Support for added claims is found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter is added. Claims previously depending from claim 14 are amended to depend from Claim 6.

Claim 6 was previously rejected as anticipated by Viola. It is respectfully urged that Viola does not teach or suggest the subject matter of Claim 6, as amended, including without limitation:

a bevel gear assembly supported by the base and disposed proximally of the piercer, wherein the bevel gear assembly is operable to provide motion of the cutter, and wherein the bevel gear assembly receives rotary motion about an axis substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the piercer .

In addition, it is respectfully urged that if one combined Viola with the other references cited by the Examiner in rejecting the canceled claims, the resulting combination would still not teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 6, including the bevel gear assembly as recited.

Conclusion:

The examiner is requested to reconsider the claims, as amended, and allow all the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

/Gerry Gressel/

Gerry Gressel, reg#34,342

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(513) 337 3535